

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



Forest Service News



Pacific Northwest Region
P.O. Box 3623
Portland, Oregon 97208

(503) 221-2971

Contacts:
Merle Pugh
Evelyn Brown

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

R-13
4-7-81

Leasing Procedures Analyzed

An environmental analysis is underway to streamline the handling of oil and gas leasing proposals on national forest land in Oregon and Washington, according to the USDA-Forest Service.

The analysis will determine how the Forest Service will respond to the Department of Interior for reports on its proposals to issue oil and gas for lands administered by the Pacific Northwest Region, said R.E. Worthington, Regional Forester.

Currently, reports on about 830 requests are being withheld pending completion of the analysis and decision on procedures. A decision will be made later this month, Worthington said, so the Forest Service "can process the report requests from USDI's Bureau of Land Management so that agency can decide on whether or not to issue a lease." USDI is responsible for leasing on federal lands.

The Forest Service study will develop effective procedures to handle leasing proposals in a timely manner and to reduce paper work. Concerns addressed in the analysis include the time required for Forest Service response to leasing proposals, requirements necessary to prevent or control adverse environmental impacts, conflicts with other resource uses, and the President's direction for timely development of domestic energy resources.

(more)

There are no producing oil or gas wells on national forest lands in the Pacific Northwest. Historically, only about 10 percent of leases result in on-site operations. Once a lease is issued, and prior to entry on the leased lands, the lessee must submit a detailed operating plan to the U.S. Geological Survey for approval and permit issuance. At that time, further environmental analysis is made of the proposed operation in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

More information is available from Carlin Jackson or Jerry Patchen in the USDA-Forest Service Regional Office in Portland, (503) 221-2921.

###

Full distribution

